

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

11 December 1985

The Honorable Robert C. McFarlane
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Bud:

I would appreciate the opportunity, if you have time before your formal departure, to meet with you and get your views on intelligence and its support for the policy process. I am particularly interested in your reflections, drawn from your years in the White House as well as the Hill, on what you see as particular problems or shortcomings--areas where realistically there could be improvement. You have had a unique perspective for a number of years and, as we try to improve intelligence support for the policy community, I would value your observations and insights.

Having had the chance to work with you for more than a decade, I want you to know how sorry I am to see you go. This city has not exactly overflowed during any of the administrations you and I have served with people who both understand foreign policy issues and the policy process itself. To lose one of the most talented practitioners in both areas is a loss for the government and the country, as well as for those of us who remain behind. I wish you the very best. It is most deserved.

Again, I hope we can get together.

Regards,

A handwritten signature, likely of Robert M. Gates, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence